United Nations S/2005/853

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 December 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 22 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the new constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 22 December 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
to the United Nations

06-21719 (E) 250106

Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the new constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 22 December 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union congratulates the Congolese people, the Independent Electoral Commission and MONUC on the successful holding of a referendum on the new Congolese constitution on 18 December 2005. Given the formidable logistical challenges with which they were confronted, the organizers did a remarkable job and the Congolese people responded magnificently by voting in large numbers in most parts of the country, in a positive and peaceful atmosphere. This was a landmark day in the history of the country and its return to democracy.

Results to date suggest a strong endorsement of the draft constitution, underlining the desire of the Congolese people for completion of the transition to full democratic Government as soon as possible. The European Union reiterates its strong commitment to help them achieve that goal and, assuming that a "Yes" vote is confirmed, urges the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the National Assembly immediately to complete parliamentary consideration and ratification of the draft electoral law.

This will maintain the momentum of the political process and ensure that the stipulated timetable in the Global and Inclusive Agreement for completion of the transition and the holding of elections by 30 June 2006 can be met.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.